

REMARKS


Claims 2-9, 11-33, 36 and 37 are pending in the application. Claims 28, 31 and 32 are allowed. Claims 2-9, 11-27, 29, 30, 33, 36 and 37 stand rejected. All rejected claims are canceled without prejudice to Applicant's right to reassert the canceled claims in a later application. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendment overcomes all grounds for rejection.

Conclusion

For all of the foregoing reasons, applicant submits that the remaining claims are allowable over the art of record and the application is in a condition for allowance. A check in the amount of \$980 is submitted herewith for the petition for three-month extension of time to file this response. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee due and to credit any overpayment to **Deposit Account No. 13-0010 (IO-1008US)**.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 19, 2004


Todd A. Bynum, Reg. No. 39,488
Madan, Mossman & Sriram, P.C.
2603 Augusta, Suite 700
Houston, Texas 77057-5638
Tel: (713) 266-1130
Fax: (713) 266-8510
Attorney For Applicants